

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-12 were pending. Claims 1-4 and 6 have been rejected under 35. U.S.C. § 102 (e) as anticipated by Franklin et al. U.S. patent No. 6,000,832 (“Franklin”). Claims 6 and 11 have been rejected under 35. U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious from Franklin in view of Bissel et al. U.S. patent No. 6,574,730. Further, claims 1 and 6 have been rejected under 35. U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The Examiner finds patentable subject matter in claims 5 and 7-10, and indicates that these claims would be allowed if rewritten in suitable form.

Applicants Reply.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s finding of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 7-10.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the prior art rejections of claims 1-4, 6 and 11. However, to expedite the issuance of a patent on this application, applicants have cancelled rejected claims 1-4 and 6. Applicants do so without prejudice to their rights to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in continuation or other related patent applications.

Applicants have amended allowable claim 5 to include the limitations of parent claims 1 and 2. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of parent claim 6. Further, claim 11 has been amended so that it now depends on allowable claim 7. Additionally, claims 5 and 7 have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to include “computer generation” steps so that the amended claims comply with the subject matter requirements of § 101.

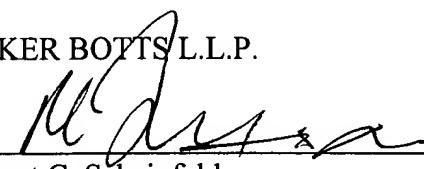
Accordingly, amended claims 5 and 6-11 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. In case there are any remaining issues that need to be resolved, applicants request that the Examiner should kindly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone for quick resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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